

Azerbaijan's Support for Ukraine



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Good afternoon,

BGR Group represents the Republic of Azerbaijan. The unprompted, unjustified Russian invasion of Ukraine continues to be of tremendous concern for all responsible members of the international community. As you may be aware, Azerbaijan shares a deep sense of solidarity with Ukraine, as two of the only former Soviet non-NATO states that have resisted efforts to fall under the Russian-led Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO). I am writing today to highlight several actions Azerbaijan has taken to support Ukraine as they defend their territorial integrity and their hard-earned sovereignty.

Prior to Russia's invasion, Azerbaijan President Aliyev was the only former Soviet country's leader to visit Ukraine in 2022. While there, Aliyev and President Zelenskyy signed several documents, including the Joint Declaration on Deepening Strategic Partnership between Azerbaijan and Ukraine, which enshrines a commitment to provide mutual support for sovereignty within internationally recognized borders.

On February 24th, the day of Russia's invasion, Azerbaijan immediately called for an immediate, peaceful, and diplomatic resolution, emphasizing the importance of compliance with the norms and principles of international law, including on the basis of the sovereignty of states, territorial integrity, inviolability of borders, as well as the indivisibility of security in the OSCE area. As Putin proceeded with his invasion, ignoring the calls by responsible international actors to cease his campaign of violence, Azerbaijan immediately mobilized a significant amount of humanitarian aid to be distributed directly to Ukrainians. Azerbaijan sent over \$5.6 million in humanitarian assistance through Poland and into Ukraine, which received [personal thanks](#) from President Zelenskyy. The second tranche of this humanitarian aid was [dispatched](#) from Baku on March 13th. In a recent conversation with President Aliyev, Secretary of State Blinken also [thanked](#) him for Azerbaijan's humanitarian support of Ukraine.

On the same day Azerbaijan dispatched humanitarian aid to Ukraine, President Aliyev also directed all gas stations in Ukraine operated by Azerbaijan's state oil company SOCAR to provide free fuel to ambulances and emergency service vehicles, to alleviate cost concerns and facilitate the continued operation of vital emergency services needed to protect civilians caught under indiscriminate Russian strikes – actions which were also [appreciated by Zelenskyy](#).

Private action in Azerbaijan has also been palpable, as hundreds of civilians gathered for a demonstration of solidarity in front of the Ukrainian Embassy in Baku, where chants of "Slava Ukraini" and criticism of Putin's senseless war abounded. The Flame Towers, a landmark building and symbol in Baku, has also been lit in the colors of the Ukrainian flag as a symbol of Azerbaijan's solidarity with Ukraine. As Ukraine's Ambassador to Azerbaijan [noted on twitter](#), the people of Azerbaijan are truly brothers with the people of Ukraine. Ukrainian Ambassador Kanevski has also highlighted a program by Azerbaijan telecom operator AZERCELL to allow users to make free phone calls to Ukraine.

Please let me know if you have any questions, or would like to engage with the Embassy further on Azerbaijan's whole-of-society efforts to support Ukraine as they bravely defend their sovereignty from Russian forces.

All my best,

Mark

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